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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

HONGJUN YUAN and MEIMEI FU,
 Plaintiffs

v.

MICHAEL CHERTOFF, Secretary,
 Department of Homeland Security and
 ROBERT S. MUELLER, Director of the
 Federal Bureau of Investigation,
 Defendants.

Case No.: C 07-3750 JL

**PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION TO
 DEFENDANTS' EX PARTE
 MOTION PURSUANT TO
 FED. R. CIV. P. 56(f)**

District Judge: Honorable James Larson

I. INTRODUCTION

On July 24, 2007, Plaintiffs Hongjun Yuan and Meimi Fu ("Plaintiffs") served the United States Attorney's Office a Complaint for Writ in the Nature of Mandamus. On September 7, 2007, Plaintiffs filed a Motion for Summary Judgment ("Plaintiffs' Motion"). Without any prior notice to the Plaintiffs, on September 10, 2007, Defendants filed an ex parte motion pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(f) ("Defendants' Motion"). Plaintiffs hereby oppose Defendants' Motion and request that the Court go forward on Plaintiffs' Motion hearing, scheduled for October 17, 2007.

I. ANALYSIS

Ex parte motions¹ are granted only on rare occasions and after a showing of good cause.

¹ In the Northern District, an ex parte motion (defined as a motion filed without notice to the opposing party) "must include a citation to the statute, rule or order which permits the use of an ex parte motion to obtain the relief sought." Civ. L.R. 7-10.

1 *In re Intermangnetics America, Inc.*, 101 BR 191, 192-193 (C.D. Cal. 1989). An ex parte
2 application must show why the moving party should be allowed to “go to the head of the line in
3 front of all other litigations and receive special treatment.” *Mission Power Engineering Co. v.*
4 *Continental Cas. Co.*, 883 F. Supp. 488, 492 (C.D. Cal 1995). Ex parte proceedings have been
5 identified as posing a great threat to the adversary system, which allows both sides to have their
6 say, therefore promoting accuracy, fairness, and consistency. Although adversary proceedings
7 will not eliminate all error, unfairness, or inconsistency, the risk of such dangers increase when
8 one side proceeds ex parte. *In re Intermangnetics America, Inc.* 101 BR at 192.

9 The Defendants have failed to show good cause. First, Defendants have failed to indicate
10 how it will be irreparably prejudiced if Plaintiffs’ Motion, as scheduled for October, is heard. In
11 addition, Defendants have failed to indicate that they are without fault in creating the crisis that
12 requires ex parte relief. *Id.*

13 Defendants’ Motion pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(f) should also be denied because
14 Plaintiffs’ Motion was issued well within the statutory allowance, and Defendants have sufficient
15 opportunity to investigate the claims raised in Plaintiffs’ Complaint.

16 Plaintiffs’ Motion was not premature. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56(a) permits a
17 party asserting a claim to move for summary judgment any time after the expiration of 20 days
18 from the commencement of the action. Plaintiffs’ Motion was initiated well after the 20-day
19 holding period.² Defendants have sufficient opportunity to investigate the claim raised in
20 Plaintiffs’ Complaint.

21 Defendants reliance on Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56(f) is procedurally deficient.
22 The rule provides that the Court may refuse the application for judgment or may order a
23 continuance to permit discovery where “it appears from the affidavits of a party opposing the
24 motion that the party cannot for reasons stated present by affidavit facts essential to justify the
25 party’s opposition.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(f). The Defendants were required to show the following:
26 1) facts establishing a likelihood that controverting evidence may exist as a material fact; 2) the

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28 ² Commencement of the action occurred on July 20, 2007. Plaintiffs’ Motion was filed
on September 7, 2007.

specific reasons why such evidence cannot be presented at the present time; and 3) the steps or procedures which the opposing party intended to utilize to obtain such evidence.

Aristocrat Technologies Australia PTY Ltd. v. International Game, 491 F. Supp. 2d 916, 935 (N.D. Cal. 2007). Furthermore, Defendants must explain how additional time will enable them to rebut Plaintiff's allegations of no genuine issue of material fact. *Id.* Defendants' affidavit fails to make the necessary showing. In fact, this case does not implicate a complex set of facts requiring additional discovery. The facts are quite simple. Plaintiffs filed adjustment of status applications (Form I-485) on January 18, 2005. A prerequisite to the Form I-485, Plaintiff Hongjun Yuan's Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker (Form I-140), was approved on July 5, 2005. However, while Plaintiffs have complied with the requirements for eligibility under the statute, the I-485 applications have remained pending with no further action for over two years and two months.

Mandamus relief in adjustment of status cases, such as this one, can be granted solely on the length of the delay. *Aboushaban v. Mueller*, No. C 06-1280 BZ, 2006 WL 3041086, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 24, 2006); *Singh v. Still*, 470 F. Supp. 2d 1064, 1067 (N.D. Cal. 2007). In a case before this district, Judge Alsup found that a two year delay to be unreasonable as a matter of law. *Gelfer v. Chertoff*, 2007 WL 902383 at *2 (N.D. Cal. March 22, 2007). Plaintiffs filed their I-485 applications over two years and seven months ago. Defendants have a duty to complete the adjudication of Plaintiffs' adjustment of status applications within a reasonable time under the Mandamus Act and the Administrative Procedure Act. Not only is the evidence within the Defendants' control, but their motion is simply a delaying tactic that will ultimately reveal incontrovertible facts.

III. CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth herein, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court deny the Defendants' Motion and go forward with Plaintiffs' Motion hearing, as scheduled, for October 17, 2007.

Dated: September 13, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Justin. X. Wang
Attorney for Plaintiff